



Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN FEBRUARY 2003

Natural soda ash production in February was 820,000 metric tons (t), 5% lower than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 251,000 t, 10% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in February was 1.24 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in January was 413,000 t, 16% lower than the January 2002 level of 490,000 t. Exports and imports of soda ash in January 2003 were 398,000 t and 615 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through January 2003, compared with those of 2002, were as follows: production was 1% higher, imports 18% lower, exports 20% higher, ending stocks 6% higher, and apparent consumption 16% lower.

The 2002 quarterly end-use data are included in table 6 of this report. U.S. exports of soda ash during 2002 have been revised (table 7). The average annual value for U.S. soda ash in 2002 was \$68.00 per short ton.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production 2/	Ending stocks	
2002:			
January	856	262	1,430
February	775	245	1,210
March	885	244	1,370
April	829	202	1,300
May	917	212	1,330
June	842	236	1,130
July	898	227	956
August	895	226	1,260
September	853	228	1,260
October	870	213	1,150
November	877	201	1,310
December	963	222	1,460
Total (January-February)	1,630	XX	2,630
Year total	10,500	XX	15,100
2003:			
January	867	278	1,470
February	820	251	1,240
Total	1,690	XX	2,710

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN JANUARY 2003 1/ 2/

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	53,500	\$5,890	\$110
Japan	41,700	5,510	132
Canada	38,100	2,940	77
China	37,900	2,920	77
Brazil	32,000	4,950	154
Australia	27,400	3,390	124
Thailand	20,000	2,510	125
Indonesia	17,200	2,150	125
Belgium	16,300 4/	3,160	193
Spain	15,000	1,600	107
Other	98,600	12,800	130
Total	398,000	47,800	120

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ February 2003 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. ports.

4/ Possible erroneous data; may be revised in the future.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY,
IN 2003 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	% of total
Argentina	11,000	3
Australia	27,400	7
Belgium	16,300	4
Brazil	32,000	8
Canada	38,100	10
Chile	10	(3/)
China	37,900	10
Colombia	12,400	3
Ecuador	4,500	1
France	7,500	2
Indonesia	17,200	4
Japan	41,700	10
Korea, Republic of	13,800	3
Mexico	53,500	13
Netherlands	10,000	3
Netherlands Antilles	11	(3/)
Philippines	8,500	2
Saudi Arabia	14,000	4
South Africa	650	(3/)
Spain	15,000	4
Taiwan	9,790	2
Thailand	20,000	5
United Kingdom	6,250	2
Vietnam	150	(3/)
Total	398,000	100

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ February 2003 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH 1/ 2/

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)
2002:		
January	746	\$130
February	436	128
March	875	177
April	1,110	221
May	991	216
June	639	118
July	779	181
August	538	152
September	837	202
October	1,020	220
November	666	134
December	384	116
Total	9,020	2,000
2003:		
January	615	135

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ February 2003 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f) value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption 2/
				Increase	Decrease	
2002:						
January	856,000	746	332,000	35,300	--	490,000
February	775,000	436	286,000	--	16,900	507,000
March	885,000	875	343,000	--	1,010	544,000
April	829,000	1,110	357,000	--	41,300	515,000
May	917,000	991	384,000	9,800	--	524,000
June	842,000	639	329,000	23,600	--	489,000
July	898,000	779	364,000	--	8,580	543,000
August	895,000	538	306,000	--	1,610	592,000
September	853,000	837	370,000	2,410	--	481,000
October	870,000	1,020	332,000 r/	--	14,700	554,000 r/
November	877,000	666	430,000 r/	--	12,100	460,000 r/
December	963,000	384	416,000	20,400	--	527,000
Total	10,500,000	9,020	4,250,000 r/	--	4,620	6,230,000 r/
2003:						
January	867,000	615	398,000	56,700	--	413,000
February	820,000	NA	NA	--	27,200	NA

r/ Revised. NA Not available. -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.

TABLE 6
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE, BY QUARTERS 1/

(Metric tons)

SIC Code	End use	2001	2002				Total
			First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	
32	Glass:						
3221	Container	1,510,000	356,000	424,000	402,000	379,000	1,560,000
3211	Flat	1,100,000	262,000	286,000	267,000	287,000	1,100,000
3296	Fiber	246,000	62,800	67,800	69,900	72,800	273,000
3229	Other	222,000	52,400	64,500	54,500	59,600	231,000
	Total	3,070,000	733,000	843,000	793,000	799,000	3,170,000
281	Chemicals	1,680,000	415,000	415,000	413,000	430,000	1,670,000
284	Soaps and detergents	697,000	181,000	205,000	179,000	168,000	733,000
26	Pulp and paper	148,000	30,900	26,200	24,900	22,500	104,000
2899	Water treatment 2/	102,000	24,100	22,000	23,700	17,900	87,700
	Fluegas desulfurization	119,000	31,500	28,200	33,200	29,900	123,000
	Distributors	338,000	73,000	91,000	78,400	72,400	315,000
	Other	224,000	51,300	52,000 r/	69,100	52,800	225,000
	Total domestic consumption 3/	6,380,000	1,540,000	1,680,000	1,610,000	1,590,000	6,430,000
	Exports 4/	3,680,000	846,000	899,000 r/	975,000	1,040,000	3,760,000
	Canada	350,000	92,900	87,900	91,200	96,200	368,000
	Total industry sales 5/	10,100,000	2,390,000	2,580,000	2,590,000	2,630,000	10,200,000
	Total sales from plants	10,500,000	2,560,000	2,620,000	2,720,000	2,750,000	10,600,000
	Total production	10,300,000	2,520,000	2,590,000	2,650,000	2,710,000	10,500,000

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors and purge liquors sold to powerplant for water treatment. Sales of mine water are excluded.

3/ Imports reported by the producer/importer have been distributed into appropriate end-use categories listed above.

4/ As reported by producers. Includes Canada. Data may not necessarily agree with that reported by the U.S. Census Bureau for the same periods.

5/ Represents soda ash from domestic origin (production and inventory changes) and imports and for exports. Includes soda ash sold by coproducers and distributed by purchasers into appropriate end-use categories.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2002 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total	% of total
Argentina	8,760	--	9,270	27,500	14,400	13,000	9,980	--	10,900	11,100	10,800	12,700	128,000	3
Australia	7,020	7,010	9,660	13,200	7,040	--	7,010	--	19,500	--	14,000	--	84,500	2
Belgium	25,000	--	--	35,300	25,000	--	--	10,800	17,100	--	--	13,200	126,000	3
Brazil	25,800	--	25,800	10,000	52,600	--	32,900	--	26,200	7,000	53,800	68,900	303,000	7
Canada	42,700	31,700	42,500	38,000	32,600	40,200	42,400	38,900	37,300	39,000	37,700	37,900	461,000	11
Chile	--	20,800	--	19,600	28,500	24,500	--	--	24,000	25,500	--	28,400	171,000	4
China	10,500	6,500	25,000	17,300	9,500	55,100	33,000	35,000	11,800	39,500	14,000	49,000	306,000	7
Colombia	--	11,700	11,500	10,800	10,800	--	12,100	--	11,000	4,890	10,900	--	83,800	2
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	3,000	3,000	--	--	3,000	3,000	--	2,000	14,000	(3/)
Ecuador	--	--	4,370	--	--	--	6,500	--	--	--	--	--	10,900	(3/)
Finland	--	17	--	--	--	--	--	17	--	--	--	--	34	(3/)
France	--	7,500	10,000	--	10,000	--	7,550	11,500	--	--	--	10,000	56,600	1
Germany	19	--	--	19	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	38	(3/)
Guatemala	--	--	--	5,000	3,500	3,000	--	--	5,500	--	--	--	17,000	(3/)
Indonesia	21,500	19,000	19,000	23,000	19,000	16,500	--	14,900	19,000	--	70,500	7,500	230,000	5
Italy	--	--	--	10,100	--	--	--	--	--	8,680	--	--	18,700	(3/)
Japan	46,800	58,100	32,300	33,600	20,600	27,600	50,500	27,600	18,500	47,900	38,300	29,500	431,000	10
Korea, Republic of	14,000	19,200	12,500	15,200	14,600	14,300	18,600	20,200	21,100	21,200	17,100	18,400	206,000	5
Malaysia	--	5,000	19,900	--	16,000	4,000	13,500	4,970	12,000	--	31,500	--	107,000	3
Mexico	56,900	39,800	37,300	27,500	50,000	61,200	66,800	39,400	79,100	52,000	53,300	73,300	637,000	15
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	58	--	58	(3/)
New Zealand	--	4,970	--	--	7,520	--	--	--	--	--	--	7,500	20,000	(3/)
Nigeria	--	3,890	--	--	--	--	--	2,920	--	--	--	--	6,810	(3/)
Panama	--	--	--	1,990	20	--	2,000	--	--	--	1,900	--	5,910	(3/)
Peru	--	2,300	--	2,000	3,500	2,000	--	--	2,700	--	--	1,980	14,500	(3/)
Philippines	8,700	--	9,000	9,000	--	7,200	10,000	--	10,200	--	7,800	--	61,900	1
Portugal	8,280	--	--	--	--	7,460	--	--	--	--	10,000 r/	--	25,800 r/	1
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	697	697	(3/)
Saudi Arabia	--	14,000	14,000	12,000	12,000	10,000	--	12,000	--	18,000	--	14,000	106,000	2
South Africa	--	--	--	--	6,070	6,070	--	6,560	6,500	--	6,560	--	31,800	1
Spain	5,000	14,100	--	--	--	--	11,900	8,000	--	--	--	--	39,000	1
Taiwan	20,000	10,000	10,500	10,200	17,000	13,200	14,000	12,000	15,500	12,400	--	33,800	169,000	4
Thailand	11,100	10,200	10,000	11,300	11,200	11,200	10,900	31,500	11,500	--	26,100	--	145,000	3
Trinidad and Tobago	2,820	--	--	--	--	2,800	--	2,800	--	--	2,820	--	11,200	(3/)
United Arab Emirates	--	--	7,000	4,000	--	7,000	--	7,000	--	--	--	7,000	32,000	1
United Kingdom	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11,500 r/	--	253	11,800 r/	(3/)
Venezuela	17,100	--	26,100	19,900	9,830	--	14,800	19,500	--	30,200	22,900	--	160,000	4
Vietnam	--	--	7,000	--	--	--	--	--	8,000	--	--	--	15,000	(3/)
Total	332,000	286,000	343,000	357,000	384,000	329,000	364,000	306,000	370,000	332,000 r/	430,000 r/	416,000	4,250,000 r/	100

r/ Revised. -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ January 2003 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, as adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey using data and information from the Journal of Commerce PIERS trade service and industry sources.